

## PUBLIC BUILDING AT GRAND HAVEN, MICH.

JANUARY 7, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

MR. MILLIKEN, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9897.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred House bill 3136, submit the following report:

The city of Grand Haven, Mich., is situated on Lake Michigan and is the most important port on the east shore of the lake. It is the headquarters and place of location of the following Federal officers: The collector of customs for the district of Michigan, 11 reporting ports; the superintendent of life-saving stations, Eleventh district, with 22 reporting stations, Chicago and Milwaukee being among the number; the post-office; the superintendent of Government harbor improvements; the inspector of hulls, district of Michigan; the inspectors of boilers, district of Michigan; the signal service; the surgeon of the Marine-Hospital Service, and other officers. These Government officials now have their offices in different parts of the city, in old and unsubstantial buildings, inconvenient and undesirable. The quarters now occupied are entirely inadequate to the proper transaction and conduct of the public business as well as for the safe preservation of public records of the different offices above enumerated.

The bill for a public building at Grand Haven has been favorably reported by the Committees on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House and Senate in the Fiftieth and Fifty-first Congresses, and such bill has at two different times passed the Senate and House of Representatives, having failed of concurrence in both branches during the same session.

The report herewith attached, furnished by officials of the Government to the Supervising Architect, under date of March 18, 1896, shows the extent of the postal receipts, of the customs receipts, and the character of the service rendered by the various officers and the area actually required for the transaction of the Government's business in each of the departments above referred to.

The harbor at Grand Haven is acknowledged to be the best harbor of refuge on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, and since 1885 the Government has expended in its improvement \$268,954.35, thus attesting its commercial value and importance.

The question of a desirable site for a Government building at this point was on March 5 instant taken up by the common council of the city of Grand Haven, which unanimously passed a resolution tendering to the Government a block of land located in the central part of the city of Grand Haven, known as Central Park, valued, upon a conservative estimate, at \$15,000 at present market value of real estate, which site is entirely satisfactory to all of the people of Grand Haven and is the finest that could be obtained for such purpose in that city.

Grand Haven is a growing, progressive, prosperous, commercial city, with diversified industries and extensive manufacturing enterprises.

There have recently been established the Challenge Corn Planter and Refrigerator Works, employing 350 hands; the Grand Haven Leather Company, employing 75 hands; the Sterling Manufacturing Company, the Ruby Match Company, the American Mirror and Glass Beveling Company, the Silas Kilbourn Company, employing 125 hands; the Dake Engine Works, and the American Brass Novelty Stamping Company, all of which enterprises bespeak for the future of Grand Haven a rapid growth and a high degree of prosperity.

In view of the large number of Government offices located at that point and its growing commercial importance, and in view of the desirability for the economical administration of the Government's service, as well as the convenience and safety of the public records, your committee is of the opinion that a public building should be provided by the Government at Grand Haven, Mich., and that the limit of cost for said building should not exceed the sum of \$50,000. They therefore report the accompanying substitute and recommend its passage.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, D. C., March 18, 1896.*

SIR: In response to request contained in letter dated February 14, 1896, from your committee, I have the honor to submit the following report upon H. R. 3136, to provide for the acquisition of a site and the erection thereon of a suitable building for the use and accommodation of the United States post-office, custom-house, and other Government offices at Grand Haven, Mich., at a cost not to exceed the sum of \$75,000.

Upon the receipt of a copy of said bill at this Department, letters were written to certain Federal officers for information in regard to the past, present, and probable future needs of the different branches of the public service at Grand Haven, estimated value of land for site, etc.

The Postmaster-General states: "Gross receipts, fiscal year 1885, \$5,412; net receipts, 1885, \$3,012; number of persons employed in 1885, including postmaster, 1; gross receipts, 1895, \$7,811; net receipts for 1895, \$5,266; number of persons employed, including postmaster, 1; present allowance for rent, \$275 per annum."

The postmaster states: "That postal receipts will probably be doubled in next ten years; 800 square feet of floor area now occupied for post-office purposes, and 1,100 square feet of space needed for the next ten years; post-office boxes and drawers now in use, 768; customs service occupies 2,120 square feet of floor space, which is not sufficient, and pay a rental of \$150 per annum; offices of inspectors of hulls and boilers contain 940 square feet, annual rental \$147; Life-Saving Service occupy 810 square feet, which is not sufficient, annual rental \$591; 1,340 square feet are now needed, and 2,300 square feet will be needed in the next ten years; Weather Bureau occupies 578 square feet of floor space and will require 800 square feet in the next ten years, annual rental \$150; inspector of harbor improvements occupies 280 square feet and will need 400 square feet in next ten years; marine hospital occupies offices aggregating 256 square feet."

The Supervising Inspector of Steam Vessels states: "That office should have 640 square feet of space."

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue states: "That a room containing 400 square feet should be provided for internal-revenue office; no quarters required at present."

From computations made, based upon the data received, it is estimated that a suitable building, which should consist of a basement and two stories, about 75 by 60 feet in size, which would afford about 9,000 square feet of floor area on first and second floors, sufficient to accommodate all of the officers above mentioned, could be constructed for about \$97,000, exclusive of cost of site, said building to be of fire-proof construction, faced with stone, heating apparatus, vaults, and approaches included.

A building of the above dimensions, of nonfireproof construction, faced with brick, can be constructed for about \$78,000, exclusive of the cost of site.

The common council of the city of Grand Haven have offered the entire square known as "Central Park" to the Government, as a site for a public building. This square is 396 by 264 feet in size, and would be large enough for the contemplated building, and to allow for any necessary extensions in the future.

Respectfully, yours,

S. WIKE,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS,  
*House of Representatives.*